



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**TODD GLORIA**

MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 14, 2022

TO: Honorable Council President Sean Elo-Rivera  
Honorable Councilmembers

FROM: Mayor Todd Gloria 

SUBJECT: Creation and Appointments to the Civic Center Revitalization Committee

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In accordance with Charter section 43(b), I am creating a citizens' committee in order to gather public input and present a vision for the revitalization of the Civic Center. This committee will also help identify socioeconomic needs and opportunities for the city, ensure City staff can continue delivering world-class services to the people we serve, and shape the parameters for what will be a transformative catalyst for the civic core in Downtown. The committee will be known as the Civic Center Revitalization Committee.

The Committee will be temporary per Charter section 43(b). Its objectives will be completed once the Committee determines that adequate and representative community feedback has been collected. The Committee will be dissolved upon completion of these objectives.

With the creation of this Committee, I am appointing Laurie Black, Jaymie Bradford, Bridgette Brashear, Betsy Brennan, Mark Cafferty, Julie Coker, Julie Corrales, Steve Cushman, Colleen FitzSimons, Denice Garcia, Martha Gilmer, Alan Gin, Joel Hermosillo, Donna Jones, Jennifer Luce, Jack McGrory, Mark Nelson, Bill Ponder, Stephen Russell, Ricky Shabazz, Tony Young, and Michael Zucchet to the Civic Center Revitalization Committee.

Ms. Black is president and CEO of LJ Black Consulting and president of RS Lawrence Development. She is a former past president of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, Chief of Staff for former U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Schenk, and Port Commissioner from 2007-2009. She has also previously served on the City's Board of Library Commissioners and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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Ms. Bradford is the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. Prior to that role, she worked in the San Diego Mayor's office as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Policy and covered everything from intergovernmental and binational affairs to infrastructure, environmental, and land-use policy for the city.

Ms. Brashear recently retired as the Building Supervisor for the City of San Diego. She oversaw the daily operations and maintenance at the City Administration Building and two former City of San Diego facilities. A native San Diegan, she has 28 years in building maintenance experience. Prior to her work in the City Administration Building, Ms. Brashear supervised both the World Trade Building and Crabtree Building.

Ms. Brennan is the President & CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the economic prosperity and cultural vitality of Downtown's urban neighborhoods. She serves on several boards, including the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the San Diego South County Economic Development Council, the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless, and the International Downtown Association Foundation. Ms. Brennan earned her Juris Doctor, with a specialization in land use, at the University of San Diego in 2003.

Ms. Browning is the Secretary-Treasurer of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, which represents over 200,000 working families in San Diego through 136 affiliated unions. She also serves as the President of Unite Here Local 30, representing over 6,000 local hotel, gaming, and food service workers. She attended UC San Diego and earned degrees in Chemistry and Spanish Literature.

Mr. Cafferty serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. He has spent over 25 years designing systems to support career advancement and economic opportunity for American workers. He has served in numerous public-sector leadership positions and has been sought as a consultant on workforce development efforts throughout the country. Mr. Cafferty earned his bachelor's in marketing and communications from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, and his advanced certification in Performance Measurement and Non-Profit Management from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Ms. Coker is the President and CEO of the San Diego Tourism Authority, where she oversees the organization's efforts to promote San Diego as a top destination. She served as the President and CEO of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, where she oversaw the 2017 NFL Draft and the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Ms. Coker serves on several boards, including the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, and the Downtown San Diego Partnership. She is an Executive Committee Member of the U.S. Travel Association and Destinations International. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Ms. Corrales is a first-generation Chicana and a Policy Advocate with Environmental Health Coalition. In this role, she works to acquire funding and advance policy to reduce toxic pollution, improve health disparities, create affordable housing, and design safe streets in Barrio Logan and Logan Heights. She was instrumental in advancing the recently approved Barrio Logan Community Plan Update, and in securing, for the first time in the region, California Strategic Growth Council Transformative Climate Communities funding.

Mr. Cushman is the Founder and President of Cush Enterprises. He has served as a commissioner for the San Diego Unified Port District and on the board of the Downtown San Diego Partnership and San Diego Convention Center Corporation. He has served on more than 70 boards and commissions. Mr. Cushman has served in the travel business for more than 25 years and the automobile business for more than 26 years. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from California Western University.

Ms. FitzSimons is the Executive Director of the San Diego Green Building Council. In this role, she has used her technical expertise and project management experience to help project teams understand how to meet the requirements of local and state green building codes, green building certification programs and organizational sustainability goals.

Ms. Garcia is Chief of Staff to San Diego County Supervisor Nora Vargas. Prior to this role, she served as the Director of International Affairs for the Office of the Mayor for the City of San Diego and Deputy Director of the Department of Government Affairs. Currently, Ms. Garcia serves as Board Member of the San Diego Downtown Partnership, Red Cross of San Diego and Imperial Counties, the New Americans Museum, and SIMNSA Fundación A.C. She earned a

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master's degree in Public Administration and a degree in International Business, with an emphasis in Latin America and Spanish.

Ms. Gilmer is CEO of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra (SDSO). Working with the Board and staff, Ms. Gilmer created the strategic plan that has been guiding the Symphony's major changes since 2016. She expanded SDSO's summer programming and community outreach, initiated the citywide arts festival, and rebranded the Bayside Summer Nights series. She partnered with the Port of San Diego to develop and open the Symphony's first permanent outdoor venue, The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park. Ms. Gilmer came to SDSO from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), where she served as Vice President for Artistic Planning and Audience Development. She is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Music and serves on the Visiting Committee and the Dean Search Committee.

Mr. Gin is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of San Diego. Previously, he taught at Loyola Marymount University and UC Santa Barbara and is part of the Economic Research Center at the Knauss School of Business at USD. Mr. Gin's research focuses on the economy of San Diego. He is responsible for developing and publishing the University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County, a monthly report on the outlook for the local economy. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, and Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees, both in Economics, from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Mr. Hermosillo manages the City Center Business Improvement District (BID), a coalition of over 900 businesses in a span of 53-blocks in the heart of Downtown San Diego. Prior to joining the Downtown San Diego Partnership, he was part of the City of Menifee's Office of Economic Development, where he oversaw business retention, attraction, and expansion for the City. Mr. Hermosillo earned his Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from San Diego State University and is an Accredited California Economic Developer, a certification program for California economic developers through the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED).

Ms. Jones is an environmental and land use attorney who has worked on various projects including master planned developments, affordable and multi-family housing, hotels, retail and commercial projects, and PETCO Park. Her volunteer work includes chairing Civic San Diego and serving on its Board; chairing the Downtown San Diego Partnership and serving on its

Board; chairing the Financial Reform Subcommittee of the City of San Diego's Charter Review Committee and serving on the City's Historic Resources and Wetland Advisory Boards and Downtown Community Plan Implementing Committee; co-chairing the San Diego County Bar Association's Land Use Section; serving as the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's General Counsel and on its Board, and serving as Secretary of TEDxSanDiego.

Ms. Kim is the Business Manager of the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council where she previously functioned as the Political Director and the Director of Community Engagement for the San Diego County Building Trades Council Family Housing Corporation (SDBTC FHC). Currently, she serves on the boards of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, the San Diego Convention Center, the California State Building & Construction Trades Council, the San Diego Workforce Partnership, Run Women Run, United Way San Diego, and the Middle-Class Taxpayers Association.

Ms. Luce is the Founder and Principal Architect at LUCE et studio. She is a licensed architect practicing in California and New York State. She is a member of the Alumni Council at the Design School and a member of the Alumni Council and Alumni Board. Ms. Luce has served on a variety of advisory boards for cultural institutions and presently co-chairs the AIA California Monterey Design Conference. She received her Bachelor of Architecture from Carleton University and a Master of Design Studies from Harvard University.

Mr. McGrory is CEO of La Jolla MJ Management, LLC, a real estate investment company. He worked for the City of San Diego for twenty-three years. He was the COO of the San Diego Padres from 1999-2000 and oversaw the building of Petco Park and adjacent commercial developments. Mr. McGrory serves on the boards of various San Diego organizations, including the California State University Board of Trustees and the San Diego County YMCA Board of Trustees, and the Board of Directors. He serves as a Lecturer for San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego. He graduated from Colgate University with a Bachelor of Arts, received a master's degree in public administration from San Diego State University, and earned his Law Degree from the University of San Diego.

Mr. Nelson serves as Chair of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association and recently retired as regional vice president and director of issues management and external relations for Sempra Energy. Mr. Nelson has served on several

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San Diego boards, including the City of San Diego's Redevelopment Oversight Board, San Diego County's Civil Service Commission, the economic leadership council for UCSD, and the government affairs committee for the San Diego Zoo. Mr. Nelson has a master's degree in public administration from San Diego State University and bachelor's degrees in political science and history from the University of California, San Diego.

Mr. Ponder is a former University Vice President at Eastern Washington University. He has extensive experience in urban planning as a building commissioner, serving on planning commissions, and as faculty in the College of Urban and Regional Planning at Eastern. Mr. Ponder also served on the Citizens Independent Bond Oversight Committee for the San Diego Unified School District and is currently the Chair of the Trustees Advisory Council for the San Diego Community College District. He also serves on the board of Groundwork San Diego.

Mr. Russell is the President and CEO of the San Diego Housing Federation. He previously served as Executive Director of the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement District, and later as an advisor to then-San Diego City Councilmember Toni Atkins on redevelopment, infrastructure financing, small business support, and the City's General Plan. He has served as a member of the firm Platt / Whitelaw Architects, Inc., board member and President of the City Heights Community Development Corporation, and is currently a board member of Civic San Diego, Housing California, and the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA).

Dr. Shabazz is the president of San Diego City College. He specializes in enrollment management and cultivating institutional policies, processes, and culture that provide both personalized student experiences and improved student outcomes.

Mr. Young is the President and CEO of RISE San Diego, which aims to advance urban leadership through civic engagement, nonprofit partnerships, and direct training. While serving as a San Diego City Councilmember for District 4, Mr. Young established San Diego's first Fair Banking ordinance and fought to create the Gang Prevention and Intervention Commission. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including the San Diego Banking Reinvestment Taskforce, Downtown San Diego Partnership, San Diego Housing Authority, San Diego Metropolitan Transit Authority, San Diego Regional Airport Authority, San Diego Workforce Partnership, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and the San Diego Tourism Authority.

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He received his degree in socioeconomics from Howard University and teaching credentials from the University of San Diego. He recently graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Education program.

Mr. Zucchet is General Manager of the San Diego Municipal Employees Association, the City of San Diego's largest employee union. He also serves as one of three City representatives on the Board of Port Commissioners, and as a Trustee for the San Diego City Employees Retiree Medical Trust. Mr. Zucchet served as City Councilmember for San Diego's Second District from 2002-2005 and as Deputy Mayor in 2005. He has also worked as Government Affairs Director for the San Diego City Fire Fighters Union, as Vice President of Real Estate for the J. Peter Block Companies, and as a renewable energy economist with the U.S. Department of Energy. Mr. Zucchet has degrees in business economics and environmental studies from UC Santa Barbara and a master's degree in environmental economics from Duke University.

I thank each of them for their willingness to serve our city in this capacity.

MTG:cwd

cc: Honorable Mara Elliott, City Attorney  
Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk  
Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst